

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 00691 241937Z

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W
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R 241715Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2842

INFO ALL EC CAPS 3019

USNATO 4531

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IFCTU, SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES: TEACHERS

1. LEADERS OF THE DANISH TEACHERS UNION ARE PROMOTING AN INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE THAT WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO ANDRE BRACONIER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREE TEACHERS' UNIONS (ICFTU), WHICH CLAIMS A MEMBERSHIP OF 2,500,000.

2. BRACONIER WILL GO TO COPENHAGEN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, TO ATTEND A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER IN COPENHAGEN. ALSO INVITED TO THE PLANNING MEETING, ACCORDING TO BRACONIER, ARE THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE THREE OTHER "INTERNATIONALS" OF TEACHERS--THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION (WCOTP), THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (WHICH BRACONIER SAYS IS JUST A "DEPARTMENT" IN THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS).
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 00691 241937Z

3. BRACONIER'S PURPOSE IN GOING TO COPENHAGEN NEXT WEEK, HE TOLD THE USEC LABOR ATTACHE, IS TRY TO ABORT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. HE HOPES TO PUT ON THE SPOT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WCOTP, WHOSE CHIEF AFFILIATE IS THE US NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA). BRACONIER BELIEVES THAT THE NEA PLAYS A "TWO-FACED" ROLE--

ON THE WORLD LEVEL NEA SUPPORTS COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES
WHILE AT HOME IN THE US IT ASCRIBES TO EUROPEANS THE
WCOTP'S POSITIVE RESPONSE TO INCREASED COMMUNIST CONTACTS.

4. BRACONIER SAID HE HAS ONE THING TO DISCUSS WITH THE
COMMUNIST TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES--TRADE UNION FREEDOM IN
EASTERN EUROPE--BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE UP THAT TOPIC
AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN JUNE, NOT IN COPENHAGEN
IN OCTOBER. ACCORDING TO BRACONIER, HE WILL DEVELOP THAT
POINT NEXT TUESDAY.

5. WE ASKED BRACONIER HOW, IN HIS VIEW, PUBLIC OPINION
IN WESTERN EUROPE IS REACTING TO NEWS REPORTS OF
REPRESSION IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, THERE IS NOW AN "EVOLUTION" IN PUBLIC
OPINION RESULTING IN A CLIMATE MORE RECEPTIVE TO CRITICISM
OF COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING TRADE
UNION RIGHTS.HINTON

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